Estimated Dollar Losses and Values

Estimated Dollar Loss is a very important aspect of fire incident reporting. This figure is a “guesstimate” of the total loss for the structure and contents. If this field is left blank, when an actual loss exists, it skews the statistics and adversely affects data quality.

The definition in the NFIRS 5.0 Complete Reference Guide, defines this field as the “estimates of the total property and contents dollar loss and the pre-incident value of the property and contents. An estimate of the property and contents dollar loss is required for all fires.”

In other words, this is a rough estimate of the total loss for the structure and contents. This estimate should take into consideration the replacement costs for building and contents damaged by fire, smoke, water and fire control. This dollar loss field helps to identify monetary losses and assists in identifying possible trends in certain types of situations. It also helps to bring to light the magnitude of the fire problem and severity for our state as well as nationwide.

To assist in improving consistency in the reported values and losses please use the following:

For every 1000sf, the replacement cost is approximately $100.00 per square foot. Therefore, if the loss is 1000sf, it would cost approximately $100,000.00 in replacement costs. When making this entry, use only whole dollars.

Please also note the following disclaimer:

NHFMO Disclaimer Statement

“Entries contained in this report are intended for the sole use of the State Fire Marshal. Estimations and evaluations made herein represent ‘most likely’ and ‘most probable’ cause and effect. Any representations as to the validity or accuracy of reported conditions outside the State Fire Marshal’s Office is neither intended nor implied. The fire departments are not liable for the dollar loss amount used in their reports. This is for statistical purposes only. Damage figures contained in this report are an estimate only and are not intended to be used by companies or others as an exact dollar loss amount.”

Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

Please keep in mind, in order for a department to apply for AFG grants they must be compliant with NHFIRS. When emailing your NHFIRS please make sure you are using the following email address: NHFIRS@dos.nh.gov.

Additional resources for fire departments can be found on the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal’s website: http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/. This website contains bulletins, news and events as well as a special section for Fire Incident Reporting. There is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section with valuable tips and answers.